

English Language Units  
Unit 2 Students' Book

# Contrast of Present Perfect and Past Simple Tenses



Longmans for the British Council



ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNITS

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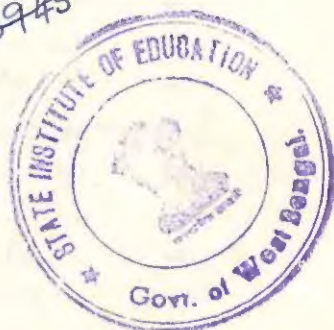
UNIT 2

Contrast of Present Perfect and Past Simple Tenses

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## Part A

### A1 Dialogue THE LOST FOUNTAIN PEN

John comes into the office. Several people work there. One of them is John's friend, Peter.

John Has anybody seen my fountain pen?

Peter I haven't, anyway. Why? What's the matter?

John I've lost it.

Peter When did you last have it?

John I haven't seen it since yesterday afternoon.

Peter Have you looked in your desk drawer?

John Yes, it's not there. Where can it be?

Peter Have you taken it home?

John No, I'm sure I haven't.

Peter What a pity! Have you had it a long time?

John Yes, since I was fifteen.

Peter Wait - what's this in my coat pocket?

John My fountain pen! Of course, I lent it to you yesterday!

Peter And it's been in my pocket all the time.

### A6 Dialogue THE APPENDICITIS PATIENT

We are inside a hospital. A patient is lying in bed after an operation. His eyes open and he sees the nurse.

Patient Nurse! Nurse!

Nurse Hullo! Have you just woken up?

Patient I don't know. Where am I?

Nurse You're in hospital.

Patient Why? What's happened?

Nurse Have you forgotten? You've just had your appendix out.

Patient I can't remember anything.

Nurse Don't worry. You haven't woken up properly yet.

Patient Have I seen you before?

Nurse Yes, do you remember me?

I was here when you came in.

Patient When are they taking my appendix out?

Nurse They've taken it out already.

Patient I feel sick.

Nurse Oh no, you're all right. Haven't you ever had an operation before?

Patient No. I've never been ill before at all.

Nurse You're lucky! Now, do you feel well enough to see your mother?

Patient Is she coming here?

Nurse She's already come.

Patient Why haven't I seen her yet?

Nurse You've only just woken up. Now lie still and I'll go and get her.

A11 Dialogue THE NEW ELECTRIC FAN

Robert has just got home. He is carrying a large parcel. His wife Elizabeth comes in.

Elizabeth Hullo! What's this?

Robert I've bought an electric fan.

Elizabeth How wonderful! I've wanted one for ages.

Can we use it now?

Robert If I can fix it. I haven't looked at the instructions yet.

Elizabeth Let's open it. Oh dear, they've wrapped it up very well, haven't they?

Robert I'll use my knife. (He cuts the string) There, that's done it.

Elizabeth Oh, you've cut the string.

What a waste.

Robert Never mind the string. Let's get the fan out. (He takes out the fan)

Elizabeth Oh, isn't it beautiful. I've never seen such a nice one.

Robert Now, where are the instructions? Oh dear, they haven't put them in.

Elizabeth Can we try without them?

Robert I suppose so. We'll plug it in (He plugs it in) There.



Elizabeth Why isn't it going?

Robert I don't know ... oh, yes, we haven't switched it on.

(He switches on the fan) That's better. (The fan starts moving)

Elizabeth It's making a funny noise, isn't it?

Robert Wait a minute. (He examines the fan) Oh, it's nothing much.  
A screw's come loose.

I'll tighten it with my knife.

Elizabeth Stop, you haven't taken the plug out.

You mustn't touch it till you've done that.

Robert Quite right. Thank you for telling me.

### WRITTEN REINFORCEMENT

Here are some examples. They are of three types:

- (i) A Clean the carpet!  
B I've already cleaned it.
- A Make John tidy his room.  
B He's already tidied it.
- (ii) A I'm going to meet James tonight.  
B Have you ever met him before?
- A John is going to keep a diary next year.  
B Has he ever kept one before?
- (iii) A Mary's forgotten her exercise book.  
B Hand in your essay, Mary.  
C I'm sorry, I can't, I've forgotten my exercise book.
- A Mary hasn't learnt that poem.  
B Now recite that poem for us, Mary.  
C I'm sorry, I can't, I haven't learnt it.

The following items are of the same three types as the examples. They are mixed up. Some of the lines are left blank. Decide which type each item is and fill in the blank lines with suitable sentences.

- 1 A Mary hasn't made the tea yet.  
B Bring the tea, Mary.  
C .....
- 2 A Wash your shirt!  
B .....
- 3 A Tell Ann to sweep the floor.  
B .....

- 4 A I'm going to make a cake tonight.  
B .....
- 5 A Mary's broken her new record.  
B Play your new record, Mary.  
C .....
- 6 A Ask Daniel to repair the car.  
B .....
- 7 A Thomas is going to fly an aeroplane tomorrow.  
B .....
- 8 A Mother's going to knit him a sweater.  
B .....
- 9 A .....  
B Tell me about New York, Mary.  
C I'm sorry, I can't, I've never been to America.
- 10 A Bring me my shoes.  
B .....
- 11 A They're going to use a tape recorder next lesson.  
B .....
- 12 A Tell the boys to eat their dinner.  
B .....
- 13 A We're going to see John's photographs this evening.  
B .....
- 14 A .....  
B Tell me all about Jane Austen, Mary.  
C I'm sorry, I can't, I haven't heard of her.
- 15 A .....  
B Open the door, Mary.  
C .....

## Part B

### B4 Dialogue MR BLACK'S MORNING

Mr Black is sitting in his study, trying to work. Mrs Black has been out shopping. Now she comes in.

Mrs Black Hullo dear. Have you had a good morning?

Mr Black No, I haven't. It's been quite impossible to work.

Mrs Black Why? What's happened?

- Mr Black For one thing, those boys have been making a terrible noise all morning.
- Mrs Black They've only been playing, dear.
- Mr Black Playing! They've been shouting and firing guns.
- Mrs Black It's been a lovely morning. I expect they've been enjoying themselves.
- Mr Black And that baby next door has been crying for hours.  
Its mother hasn't taken any notice at all.
- Mrs Black I expect she's been too busy.
- Mr Black She hasn't been too busy to listen to the radio. She's been playing it the whole morning.  
I haven't heard such a noise for a long time.
- Mrs Black Poor woman! She's probably been trying to drown the sound of the men working on the road.
- Mr Black That's another thing. They've been using the drill non-stop.  
I haven't been able to hear myself think.
- Mrs Black Oh dear! We'd better go out this afternoon and get some peace.

### WRITTEN REINFORCEMENT

Here are some examples. They are of three types:

- (i) A I live in a flat.  
B How long have you been living in it?
- A My father runs a garage.  
B How long has he been running it?
- (ii) A Have you two stopped fighting?  
B Yes, we've been fighting for three hours but we've just stopped.
- A Has the cock stopped crowing?  
B Yes, it's been crowing for three hours but it's just stopped.
- (iii) A The dog's been barking all morning.  
B No, it hasn't barked for at least an hour.
- A The boys have been shouting continuously.  
B No, they haven't shouted for at least an hour.



The following items are of the same three types as the examples. They are mixed up. Some of the lines are left blank. Decide which type each item is and fill in the blank lines with suitable sentences.

- 1    A    You've been coughing ever since you got up.  
      B    .....
- 2    A    Has it stopped raining?  
      B    .....
- 3    A    My wife is learning English.  
      B    ,.....
- 4    A    Has John stopped singing?  
      B    .....
- 5    A    My brother goes to a technical college.  
      B    .....
- 6    A    Thomas has been playing the guitar all evening.  
      B    .....
- 7    A    Has the fire stopped smoking?  
      B    .....
- 8    A    I'm still writing the same letter.  
      B    .....
- 9    A    .....  
      B    Yes, I've been sewing for three hours but I've just stopped.
- 10   A    You're sitting on some wet paint.  
      B    .....
- 11   A    .....  
      B    No, you haven't worked for at least an hour.
- 12   A    They're using our school as their clubroom.  
      B    .....
- 13   A    .....  
      B    Yes, she's been crying for three hours but she's just stopped.
- 14   A    She's been playing her gramophone non-stop since she came in.  
      B    .....
- 15   A    .....  
      B    No, they haven't made a noise for at least an hour.

## Part C

### C3 Dialogue THOMAS'S RADIO

Thomas and Paul are students. Thomas has a transistor radio. He brings it to Paul for help.

Thomas My radio won't work.

Paul Have you tested the batteries?

Thomas No.

But it can't be that, because I put new ones in last week.

Paul When was it last overhauled?

Thomas It never has been overhauled.

Paul But you've had it a long time, haven't you?

Thomas Only about ten months.

I got it when I first came to college.

Paul Have you used it much?

Thomas Not recently.

I used it a lot at first.

But now I've made so many friends, I never have time to listen to it.

Paul Did you get a guarantee with it?

Thomas Yes.

I've got it somewhere. Oh, here it is.

Paul Has it expired yet?

Thomas Yes it has.

It expired some time ago.

Paul That's a pity. I'm afraid you'll have to pay for the repair then.

### C8 Dialogue DR KING'S TRAVELS

Dr King, the famous explorer, has just returned from a trip round the world. A reporter is interviewing him about his travels.

Reporter Have you ever been to Peru, Dr King?

Dr King Of course I have.

Well, go on.

- Reporter Where did you go on this trip, sir?
- Dr King I went everywhere.
- Reporter I see. Did you have any interesting experiences while you were travelling?
- Dr King No.
- None at all. It's been a very boring trip.
- Reporter But your plane crashed when you were flying over the Himalayas.
- Dr King Yes, no doubt. Many of my planes have crashed.
- Reporter Surely you remember it. After all, you climbed Mount Everest after the crash.
- Dr King It's possible. I've climbed it several times, I really don't remember when.
- Reporter Well, sir, what about your journey back from India? I believe you crossed the Sahara Desert by land rover?
- Dr King Certainly not.
- I've crossed it on foot once or twice,
- but I've never driven a land rover in my life.
- Reporter I beg your pardon, sir. I wonder if I could ask about your plans for your next trip. Would you like to visit, say, the North Pole?
- Dr King No. I've already visited it.

### WRITTEN REINFORCEMENT

- 1 In this exercise you must put the correct form of the verb (see the margin) in the space provided. Use the past simple, present perfect or present perfect continuous tense. The first two have been done for you.

Tom has just met Joe, an old friend, in the street. They have not seen each other for years. They greet each other and begin to talk about their friend John.

(you) see	J	Did you see ..... John in Rome in the summer?
never be	T	I 've never been ..... to Rome in my life, so I certainly didn't.

- |   |          |   |  |
|---|----------|---|--|
| 1 | stay     | J | Oh, he's having a wonderful time. He ..... there for three months already and still doesn't want to come home. .... abroad recently? |
| 2 | (you) be |   |  |

- 3 work T Yes, as a matter of fact I ..... in Africa  
 4 only just return until July this year. We ..... to England.
- 5 (you) arrive J Oh, when ..... ?
- 6 come T Two weeks ago. We ..... by boat.  
 7 (you) have ..... any holidays yet this year ?
- 8 go J Yes, we ..... to Athens in June.
- 9 (you) travel T How ..... ?
- 10 (you) ever fly J By air as usual. .... to or from Africa ?
- T Once, home from Africa on a short leave, but we like the sea better.

2 In this exercise you must put the correct form of the verb (see the margin) in the space provided. Use the past simple, present perfect or present perfect continuous tense. The first one has been done for you.

- A Have you ever tasted lemonade ?  
 taste B Yes, I ..... it for the first time at a party last week.
- 1 see A Have you seen that film yet ?  
 B Yes, I ..... it last night.
- 2 do A Did you do your homework ?  
 B Yes, I ..... it yesterday.
- 3 not visit A Have they visited the exhibition ?  
 B No, they ..... it yet.
- 4 not start A Does she go to the same school as you ?  
 B No, she ..... to go to school.
- 5 already take A May I borrow that new novel when you've finished it ?  
 B I ..... it back to the library.
- 6 not know A Why didn't you introduce me ?  
 B I ..... her.
- 7 live A Do you know this town well ?  
 B Yes, I ..... here since 1960.
- 8, 9 work A Isn't John coming to bed yet? What is he doing ?  
 just finished B Well, he ..... all evening but I think he .....
- 10 open A How do you know what was in my letter ?  
 B I ..... it when you were out.

3 Read these facts about a young Malayan teacher called Mat bin Yusof:-

Today is 31 January 1965.

1941	Mat is born in Penang.
1947	Mat enters a primary school in Penang.
1953	Mat leaves the primary school and enters a secondary school in Penang.
1960	Mat leaves the secondary school and enters the university in Kuala Lumpur.
1963	Mat leaves the university.
November 1963	Mat gets a temporary job, teaching in a big secondary school in Alor Star.
March 1964	Mat finishes teaching in Alor Star.
June 1964	Mat gets a job teaching in a school in Kelantan province. He is still there.

Now read the following passage and put the correct form of the verb (see the margin) in the space provided. The information given above will help you. Use the past simple, present perfect or present perfect continuous tense. The first one has been done for you.

Remember that today is 31 January 1965.

be                      Mat was born in Penang and his home ..... there  
ever since, for, until he marries, he will always consider  
that his parents' house is his home.

1	start	Mat ..... primary school in 1947 and
2	spend	..... about thirteen years at school
3	leave	altogether. In 1960 he ..... the secondary
4	enter	school and ..... the university in Kuala
5	study	Lumpur; he ..... English there for three
		years. Mat is teaching in a school in Kelantan province
6	begin	now. He ..... work there last June, so he
7	not live	..... in Kelantan very long, but already he
		feels at home there. He prefers it to the big cities
8	live	of Penang, where his parents ..... since 1936,
9	live	and Kuala Lumpur, where he ..... for three
10	decide	years. Now Mat ..... that he really enjoys
11	only teach	teaching, although so far he ..... in two
12	work	schools. He ..... at a big secondary school in



13 leave Alor Star when he ..... the university, but he  
14 not stay ..... there long. That was before he  
15 get ..... his present job in Kelantan. Mat likes  
16 teach his new school, and ..... English there for  
17 go seven months. Recently he ..... home to  
18 just return Penang to see his parents and ..... Mat  
19 see ..... many parts of Malaya, but so far he  
20 not visit ..... any country outside Malaya. And most  
of all he wants to go to Mecca.

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## Longmans

This project was initiated by the British Council under whose auspices the first 15 Units were written. The material was used by British Council officers and other teachers in many different countries and the Units have been revised and modified in the light of their reports. The revision of the first Units and the development of the project has been handed over to Longmans. Further Units will be written by experts in English language teaching under the general editorship of C. E. Nuttall who has worked on this project from its inception. This will ensure that the knowledge and experience gained by the British Council will be a continuing influence.

The Units are designed for remedial/revision/reinforcement work. It has been assumed that the student has a passive acquaintance with most of the important structures of English, but a weak grasp of these when required to use them. The Units have also been used as supplementary material for initial teaching.

The Units will eventually provide a comprehensive library covering most of the major problems encountered by the teacher of English as a foreign or second language. The series of Units has not been planned as a course; each Unit is complete in itself. The teacher will be able to build up his own course by choosing Units covering the topics he wants to deal with.

Each Unit consists of a set of drills and dialogues on tape and a teacher's book containing the script of the taped material together with teaching notes and suggestions for supplementary work. There is also a booklet for the student containing the script of the dialogues and written work.